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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

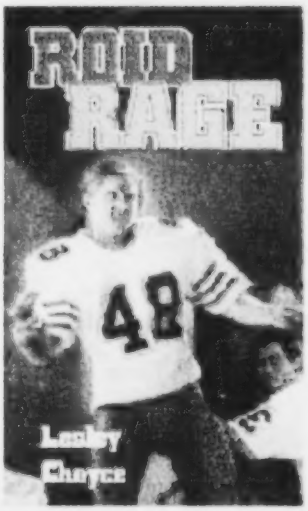
Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Branch Events

2008-00055/

April was poetry month and the Wolfville Branch hosted "Writes of Spring" featuring six local poets and their works. Poets were Heather Pyrez, Wanda Campbell, Marla Landers, Deanna Yonge, Hilary Thompson and Andrew Steeves. A truly enjoyable evening for all in attendance.

The Windsor Branch hosted author Lesley Choyce through the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award and Canada Council for the Arts. Lesley entertained the audience with a reading, a video and an informal discussion on his writings and life style.



In-Service
On May 31, the region wide in-service for all staff took place at the regional headquarters in Bridgetown. Workshops included: *Ergonomics in the Workplace*; *WHIP* (Western Health Information Partnership); *AVRL's Pension Plan*; *Computer/Printer Troubleshooting*; *Internet Explorer*; *Making Poster/Signs* and *Addressing Public Needs*.

New Services, New Equipment
Coming to a library near you in the Annapolis Valley, new services, new equipment and expanded access! Users of any branch of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library now have access to additional services both in the library and at home. The key to these new services is a library card.

What new things are available with a library card?

- Access to user's own accounts
- Capability to place user's own holds
- Remote access to the Infotrac SearchBank databases from any Internet connection

The web catalogue is also available from the library's home page, **http://avrl.library.ns.ca**. Booklists are posted on the website with lists of new acquisitions and lists by subject. Users may now submit requests online by completing the web based form.

Between May 10 and June 20, 2000 each branch library will host an open house promoting these services. The events will also highlight the new equipment received through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. These new computers have allowed users to move from ½ hour time slots for computer use to 1 hour slots. At least one Reference Express station has been installed in each branch for stand up use to facilitate quick walk-in access to electronic services.

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)

Truro Branch library was in the centre of the main festival held in Truro, the International Tulip Festival. Staff wore colourful tulip buttons to welcome patrons; there were tulip crafts in the youth department and bookmarks that listed tulip websites and books. Art in Bloom, a provincial art competition presented by the Truro Art Society, was held in the library auditorium and had record numbers in to see the exhibit which provided a wonderful backdrop for the Tulip Festival Sponsor Reception, co-sponsored by The Colchester-East Hants Regional Library and the Atlantic Superstore.

The Chignecto Central Regional School Board Heritage Fair was held in Truro on May 12 with a rich collection of exhibits by students throughout the district. Students from rural areas were given a tour of the Truro Branch and a member of the Truro Art Society gave an explanation of the Art in Bloom display. The students were very pleased to see the branch and remarked that they now would visit the branch for research and computer use while their parents shopped in Truro.

Plans have been underway since October for the celebration of the 50 th anniversary of the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library as part of the provincial library system. Celebrations started with the Truro branch on June 4 and will occur on different days in all branches with a final wrap up reception in October.

The Rural Conference in Magog
Wendy Robichaud from Colchester-East Hants Regional Library recently attended the Rural Conference in Magog, Quebec. The Secretary of State for Rural Development, Andy Mitchell, headed the conference of 500 people from rural and remote communities of Canada to discuss the concerns of rural Canada. Two mandates of this conference were to improve the life of Canadians living in rural and remote communities and to co-ordinate the efforts of all federal departments and agencies in rural Canada. Nova Scotia had ten representatives from various organizations. The participants chose lecture topics ahead of time so that the dialogues, concurrent sessions and networking were as effective as possible.

One of the successes touted by Industry Canada was the Community Access Program (CAP), yet some remote communities have no telephone lines to access government programs online. Accessible information is paramount in rural and remote communities that have few services from government or businesses such as banks. Libraries across Canada have a vital role to play in making cost-effective information available. Better co-ordination of information sources is required so that very small communities could sustain a single source of text based or electronic information such as a library. Participants will now give feed-back to the Rural Development Team about where the federal government should place their priorities to improve the quality of life for those in rural Canada.

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

Two Library Technician students, Kimberly MacInnes and Michelle White recently completed their work experience program with the Cumberland Regional Library. They worked on an activity kit featuring everything from games and crafts to websites - all related to the **Sail Away With Books** summer reading theme. A workbook listing all their activities was created and distributed to other regions at the May 19 Council of Youth Services (COYS) meeting.

Left to right: Ruth Boyle, Janet Lowther and Tammy Teed enjoy the reception at the Four Fathers Library, Amherst.

Cumberland also hosted the Library Boards of Nova Scotia (LBANS) Conference, May 12-14 (see LBANS article). Activities included a Library Advocacy workshop on Friday followed by a Wine and Cheese held at the Four Fathers Library. Saturday featured a banquet held at the Wandlyn Inn with Jane Purves, Minister of Education, in attendance.

South Shore Regional Library Board (SSRL) Chairman Alan Wilson (right) is the new president of LBANS. Education Minister Jane Purves was guest speaker (centre). Alan succeeds Rod MacArthur, (left) chair of the Cape Breton Regional Library board, who is now past-president.

Left to right: Gary Archibald (Secretary), Kathy Langille (Treasurer), Alan Wilson (President), Betty Thomas (LBANS Board Director), Rod MacArthur (Past President) and Allister MacDonald.

Halifax Regional Library (HRL)

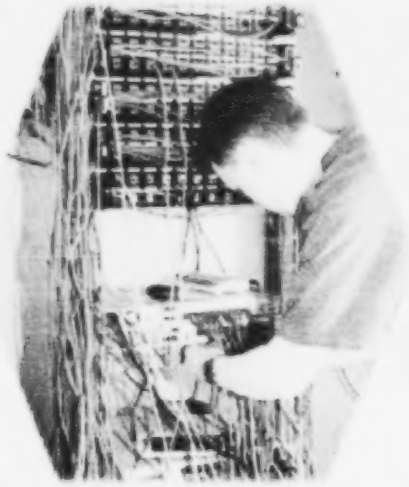
Getting Ready for Gates: From Install to Training

The first staff training sessions were held in the new Gates Training Centre located at the Alderney Gate Public Library on May 1, 2000. The Halifax Regional Library received $246,586 of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donation to Nova Scotia's libraries. Over the next three months more than 100 Information Desk staff from the Alderney Gate, Captain William Spry, Cole Harbour, Dartmouth North, Halifax North, Sheet Harbour, Spring Garden Road and Thomas Raddall branches will attend the two-day training sessions. The sessions are designed to thoroughly familiarize staff with the office, reference and children's software available on the Gates Pcs. The training will also provide staff with the necessary skills to assist the public in using the new computer equipment.

Systems Assistant Andrew Curran unpacks the new Gates equipment at the Halifax Regional Library's Gates Computer Training Centre located at the Alderney Gate Library in Dartmouth.

The Gates Training Centre will be available for use by local non-profit organizations who would like to offer computer training to their clients. Women's Employment Outreach (WEO) will be offering job search strategy counseling, retraining information, and employment and career related workshops.

Staff attending the training sessions on the Gates PCs. (Standing) Darlene Barrett, Gates Trainer, (from left to right); Lynn Somers, Thomas Raddall Library; Patricia Weeks, Spring Garden Road Library; Valerie Prowse, Alderney Gate Library; Kathryn Bruce-Mactavish, Alderney Gate Library and Emmanuel Chimbo, Cole Harbour Library.



Installation of the equipment is well underway in other locations and it is expected to be completed by the first week of June. The Gates computers will be made available to the public early June. Here, a Gates server is wired into the library network by Systems Assistant Paul Badcock during installation at the Alderney Gate Library.

South Shore Regional Library

The Bridgewater Home and Leisure Show offered an new opportunity for the South Shore Regional Library to show its stuff. One crowd pleaser was a video on how to lay a hardwood floor and many passers-by also stopped to gaze at ceramic tile installation. In the true spirit of public service library staff assisted a neighbouring exhibitor who had forgotten his television remote. Since both exhibitors had the same TV/vcr unit, library staff (who became quite knowledgeable about in-floor radiant heating over the course of the weekend) rewound his tape when necessary. Close to 500 people entered a draw to win a book in an SSRL book bag. The numerous remarks of "I didn't know the library had videos," and "Of course I never thought of the library," were convincing proof that the home show was indeed a place for the library to be.

The fifth biannual Liverpool International Theatre Festival was a great hit over the Victoria Day weekend. Almost 200 people in troupes from China, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Venezuela, Ontario and Nova Scotia took part. SSRL's Liverpool branch got into the spirit of things by reserving a public access terminal so festival participants could check their e-mail throughout the four-day event both during and outside regular library hours.

On duty at the Bridgewater Home and Leisure Show were (left) Karen Cook, Bridgewater Branch and (right) Barbara Himmelman, Lunenburg Branch.

Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

As of May 26 the 'book metre' was registering 717 books adopted for this year's campaign. The total dollar value of books to date is $13,557.41. The goal is to have 1000 books adopted by June 30. The book metre will take a leap on Jun 14 when the Tri County Labour Council will present the library with a collection of large print books purchased with donations of almost $3,000.00 from its members. The books will be donated to the library in memory of David Glover from the Yarmouth branch. The Adopt-A-Book campaign, sponsored by radio station CJLS, has raised over $50,000.00 for new books since 1996.

Sheree Fitch (right) drew a full house in both Yarmouth and Shelburne branches during her visit to WCRL in May. Her schedule included class visits and book signings.

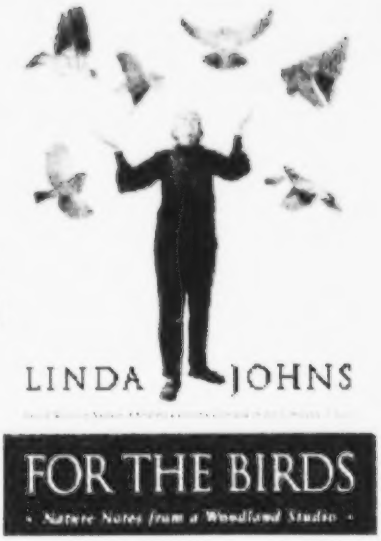
Sheree won the first Hackmatack Award in May, the children's choice award in the non-fiction category being presented for *If You Could Wear My Sneakers* (see full article below). She has been reading widely from this book of verse, and reciting the Hackmatack poem, and as a consequence, enchanting young listeners everywhere. Somehow Sheree managed to hang on to her voice for yet more live performances at the award ceremony!

Mary Gaudet, Bookkeeper for WCRL retired on May 4 after ten years of service and a retirement party was held in her honour on May 1. Mary's warm personality and kind ways will be missed by all. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) 2000 conference was held May 25 - 28, in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The theme was "Talking About People" and while there were a number of technical sessions, there were others on providing everyday services to library users and staff, such as "Services for Seniors" and "Is your work (station) bending you out of shape?" The keynote speaker was Steve Coffman, Director of Los Angeles County Public Library. He agreed to address the conference partly because he wanted to explore the famous Bay of Fundy afterwards.

Left to right: Suzanne Sexty, Library Instruction Coordinator, Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland; Elaine MacLean, APLA Treasurer 1999/2000 and Head of Technical Services, St. Francis Xavier University; Sheldon Currie, author of The Glace Bay Miners' Museum and retired professor of English, St. Francis Xavier University.



Bird lovers at APLA were treated to an author reading by Linda Johns - artist, author and naturalist - whose book "Sharing a Robin's Life" won the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction. Reading from her books "For the Birds," "In the Company of Birds," and soon to be published "Wild and Woolly," she shared stories of life with the birds and animals which inspire her. A favourite was the bird's eye view of the joys of paper, a pot of macaroni and drying canvasses, as seen by one grackle and two house roosters home alone. The readings were followed by a viewing of Ms. Johns' paintings in the library, where representations of universal birds, rather than the distinct personalities in the stories, recur in her work.

Karen Turko, Head of Preservation Services at the University of Toronto, gave a presentation on "Digitization of Library and Archive Collections," which focused on digital imaging technology for preservation of materials such as out of print books, rare or fragile photos and letters. Digital preservation is a very complex business involving many interacting components - hardware, software, expertise. Ensuring the longevity of digital documents is just one of the factors which need to be taken into consideration at the start of any project. Karen described the economics and benefits of some of the projects she has been involved with, such as the very successful Early Canadiana Online Project, at www.canadiana.org.

There are numerous research projects being conducted. RLG DigiNews is a bimonthly web-based newsletter at http://www.rlg.org/preserv/diginews, which focuses on issues of particular interest and value to managers of digital initiatives with a preservation component. A leading proponent of digital preservation is Jeff Rothenberg, and one of his papers is available at http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/rothenberg/contents.html, which is linked to the Digital Library Federation (DLF)website, a consortium of research libraries that are exploiting network and digital technologies.

Thanks go to Rita Campbell, St. Francis Xavier University Librarian, and her team for organizing a wonderful conference. APLA 2001 will be in Charlottetown. For more information, keep an eye open at http://www.stmarys.ca/partners/apla.

COUNCIL OF REGIONAL LIBRARIANS' MEETING

The spring session of the semi-annual Council of Regional Librarians' Meeting was held recently at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

The *Web Awareness Program* will get underway this summer at the regional libraries using Gates labs and other venues to train library staff and board members on the three modules designed by the Media Awareness Network.

For more information on this program, see http://www.media-awareness.ca/eng/webaware/workshops/workshop.htm.

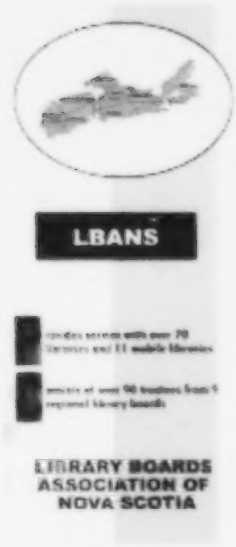
Street Smart 9 to 5 is another program aimed at regional library staff this summer to promote tips on how to best handle potential conflict at work; workshop participants learn about crisis development, personal safety, verbal intervention, and team intervention.

The Library Public Awareness Working Group recommended that the regional libraries subscribe as a group to Prospect Research Online. The database will be made available to the public as well as staff. The Group has been active in a number of public relations initiatives, such as developing a series of Public Service Announcements from the recently produced library video.

Andrea John from the Department of Education presented information on the Freedom of Information Act/Protection of Property Act. Regional library boards are covered under the Act and designated FOIPOP administrators can prepare themselves further through attending a new training session and obtaining a procedures manual.

Jessica MacLennan, School Library Consultant with the Nova Scotia Department of Education, spoke about her vision for school libraries in Nova Scotia, and recommended that the various types of libraries cooperate further with school libraries to share resources, such as online resources, staffing, literacy development and Summer Reading Program promotion in schools.

LIBRARY BOARDS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE (LBANS)



The Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia held its annual conference "New Beginnings 2000" in Amherst, May 12-14. LBANS members comprise the more than 90 trustees from the province's nine regional library boards. The boards oversee 76 public libraries and 11 mobile libraries throughout Nova Scotia. The guest speaker was Jane Purves, Minister of Education. She reassured all that she and her Department will continue to honour and support public libraries across the province. Discussion of the impact of school library losses on public library facilities and staff was lively. LBANS members passed a resolution asking that the Department recognize the crucial role of school libraries in education and include library service as part of the core curriculum.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM, NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cathy Newton, Youth Services Clerk, at the Truro Branch of the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library, provided this report on her experience as a distance education student of the Nova Scotia Community College.

"I enrolled from Truro in the Nova Scotia Community College Library Technician distance education program in 1994. I was working part-time and this was an excellent way for me, without quitting my job and going full time to school, to participate in this program. At that time, many people asked me why; why at this time in my life ...? I feel that personal development is a positive step in anyone's life and as adults we are constantly learning. Any knowledge you can bring to your job is beneficial. The program has seen many changes since that very first class. The requirements have changed from 18 to 21 courses needed to graduate and from 7 to 5 years to finish the program.

"The biggest change was the technology in which our classes were delivered. The very first class was taught by audio only. Each year we seemed to get a new system and it was a challenge to learn the operation of the system online. There were always bugs and kinks to iron out! I found the Introduction to Computers and Cataloguing courses were the most difficult to learn online. However, the instructors were very helpful and took the time to explain any complications. My only advice to other students is to let the campus know of any concerns. By doing this, students make the program much better. I have completed all the courses except one academic course which I hope to pick up this fall and be able to graduate in May 2001. The information I have learned through these courses has helped me in being able to do my job more effectively."

To learn more about the program visit the web site at http://www.nscc.ns.ca/programs/LibraryandInformationTechnology.html.

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (SLIS)

This month we're taking an opportunity to let our colleagues know more about the involvement of SLIS faculty and staff in professional and academic association activities. Through their contributions to these associations, and attendance at their meetings, SLIS staff keep in touch with the larger world of

library and information studies and help keep our teaching and research up to date. Membership in the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) provides one such avenue, and each year some SLIS faculty members attend the annual conference.

In addition, Norman Horrocks (right) is active in ALISE, currently revising and reorganizing the Association's Procedures and Policy Manual. Norman is also reviewing and revising the Constitution and Bylaws for the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

Heidi Julien is the current chair of the ALISE Organization, Bylaws, and Resolutions Committee, and was a team member with the recent ALISE-Kellogg project (KALIPER), analysing LIS curricular changes.

Bertrum MacDonald currently serves on the American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation. The Committee evaluates professional and occupational education at the program level for American and Canadian Library and Information Studies Schools. Faculty also participate each year in the Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference and in the Canadian Library Association conference.

Finally, we share our research by making presentations at conferences. This past year some examples include Bertrum Macdonald's presentation at the Kingston Conference of the Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association, Heidi Julien's presentation at the conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science, and Elaine Toms' presentation to the American Society for Information Science conference.

We welcome questions about these or any other SLIS activities and programs. Contact our Director, Bertrum MacDonald, at: macdonal@is.dal.ca, (902) 494-2472. And please visit the web site at: http://www.mgmt.dal.ca/slis.

STATE OF THE UNION FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Can private and public book suppliers live together?

Vernon Clement Jones wrote an article called *Is it check-out time for libraries?* in NOW Magazine's April 27, 2000 issue, online at http://www.nowtoronto.com/issues/19/35/News/feature.html. The following gives a summary of the issues he and others have brought up recently on the topic of how well the public library is faring nowadays.

Toronto budget chief Tom Jakobek thinks that the Toronto Public Library needs a totally new game plan and that the library's been run by the same people who've been running it forever. He loves the hip environment at Chapters and says the library is completely out of step with Toronto's change of lifestyle. (Chapters spokesperson Helena Aalto points out that 60 per cent of book-buying decisions are made only after browsing, which is why the bookstores are so comfortable). Jakobek wants to know why we can't get coffee or access more interactive services, with real tech support, at the public library.

The author, Vernon Jones, asks if bibliophiles and others are really willing to let the big-box bookstore become the library of the 21st century, because retailers are very conscious that their strategies are appealing to library users, running many similar popular programs, such as author readings.

Ernie Ingles, Associate Vice-President (Learning Systems) and Chief Librarian at the University of Alberta has made it widely known that librarians should be aware of the competition. Andrew Clement, an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto notes that when the library is only concerned with its circulation numbers -- its bottom line -- the small-press titles get sacrificed. The libraries' shelves begin to mirror Chapters' and the dominant voice becomes the only voice.

In Britain, the warning that the public library needs to refurbish its services is being heeded. In an article entitled *Libraries: Read not dead* appeared on the BBC's online news website, May 16, 2000. Ryan Dilley wrote that the recent unveiling of the striking Peckham Library may prove a boon for book lending at a time when circulation has been dropping. The £4.5m building in south London is said to be one of the "funkiest" in Britain. According to Bill Macnaught, Secretary of the Society of Chief Librarians, libraries are set for something of a renaissance to meet the demands of the information society.

Speaking about some of the factors which challenge libraries to meet the demand of the public, Tim Godfray of the Booksellers Association, says that some of the bigger bookshops have become meeting places for people and many retailers have also drastically reduced the prices of the biggest best-sellers - often the same ones borrowed from the public lending service. Mr Godfray says the need for change has not been lost on libraries and they have tried to get rid of the vestiges of the Victorian image that has lingered for so long. Check out the full text at http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/uk/newsid_749000/749290.stm.

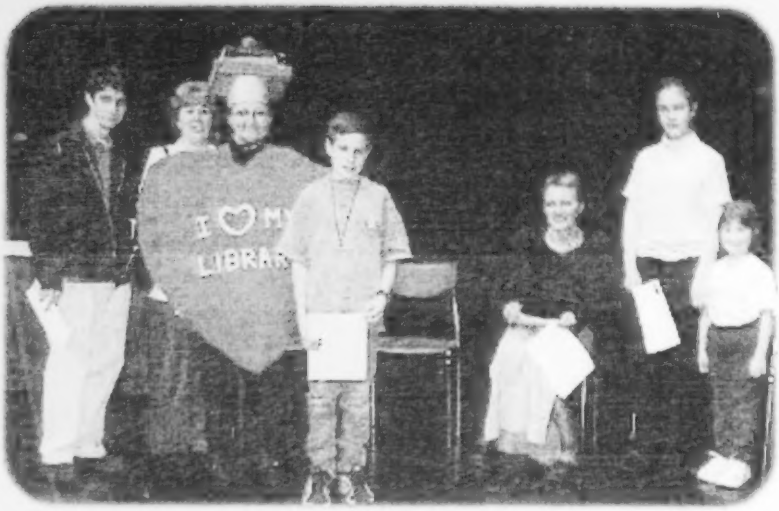
WINNERS OF THE FIRST HACKMATACK AWARDS

The Atlantic Children's Choice Book Award announces the winners of the first Hackmatack Awards

Joanne Head, Award Ceremony chairperson and Kevin Major, whose book *The House of Wooden Santas* was shortlisted for the Hackmatack Award in the fiction category, at the Birmingham Grill Tap Room.

May 19-20 was an exciting two days for a large number of Nova Scotian children and Canadian children's writers. Authors, publishers, sponsors and others who made the first Hackmatack Award experience so successful gathered at the Birmingham Grill Tap Room in Halifax on May 19 to acquaint themselves a bit more with each other before the ceremony the following day. Carole Compton-Smith, Coordinator of Technical Services at Nova Scotia Provincial Library, organized the reception and thanked the participants for all their work. Door prizes included sought-after Hackmatack vintage wine!

Scott Christie, Account Manager, Almon Street Branch of The Royal Bank (left) handing over a cheque for $2,500 in support of Hackmatack. Shown (centre) is Monika Sormova, Hackmatack Co-ordinator and Carole Compton-Smith (right), Head of Technical Services, Nova Scotia Provincial Library.



Norene Smiley (wearing her heart on her sleeve) helps a young reader at the Hackmatack Award ceremony. To her right is Joanne Head, youth services librarian at Western Counties Regional Library, and to her left, (sitting) Monika Sormova, Hackmatack coordinator.

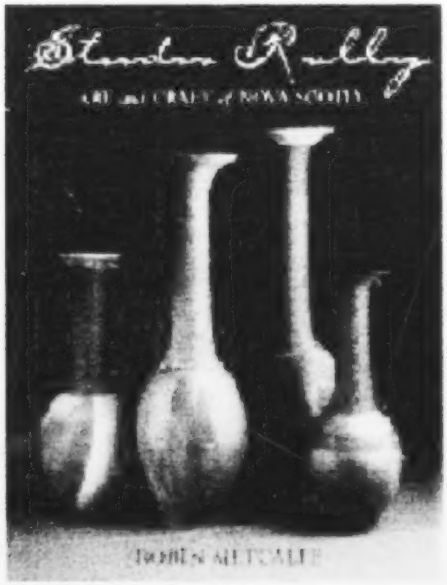
The year 2000 Hackmatack winners in both fiction and non-fiction categories were announced at the first award ceremony held on May 20, at the Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth, with the participation of nominated authors and children from numerous Atlantic communities. Minister of Education, Jane Purves, addressed the audience with her comments on being an avid reader. On Saturday morning the young readers handed over flowers and award plaques to Sheree Fitch, children's choice non-fiction category winner for her book *If You Could Wear My Sneakers* and to Kenneth Oppel, children's choice fiction winner for his book *Silverwing*.

The Award aims to enhance literacy and promote reading of Canadian books by children in the Atlantic region. "Hackmatack" promotes children's appreciation of literature by making them the judges in the annual awards. More than 4,400 children from grades 4 to 6 participated in the program.

Many volunteers and funding supporters, including $4,000 from the **Canada Millennium Partnership Program** (CMPP) have helped the project. For more information visit www.millennium.gc.ca or www.hackmatack.ca.

ATLANTIC WRITING AWARDS CEREMONY

Writers from all four Atlantic provinces won prizes at the annual Atlantic Writing Awards Ceremony held recently at Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Alistair MacLeod's first novel, *No Great Mischief* (McClelland & Stewart) won both the Dartmouth Book & Writing Award for Fiction and the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize. MacLeod, who has just retired from the University of Windsor also recently won Ontario's Trillium Prize for this novel.



The winner of the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Literary Prize is Robin Metcalfe for *Studio Rally: Art and Craft of Nova Scotia* (Goose Lane Editions). In this lavishly illustrated book, Metcalfe takes a journey through the art and craft landscape of Nova Scotia, introducing fifty-two of the province's artists and craftspeople.

David Frank won the Dartmouth Book & Writing Award for Non-Fiction for *J.B. McLachlan: A Biography* (Lorimer). Agitator, educator, organizer, McLachlan helped change the balance of power in industrial society.

The 10th Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature went to David Weale for *The True Meaning of Crumbfest* (The Acorn Press). This story of a curious little mouse who lives on a farm in rural Prince Edward Island is fast becoming a Christmas tradition in households throughout the world. Newfoundland born Ken Babstock won the Atlantic Poetry Prize for *Mean* (Anansi). As its title suggests, *Mean* is not for the faint of heart or thought. It's the rare poet who can write a successful sonnet about hockey violence or child abuse. This Babstock does with a clarity of language that is painful while refreshing.

Halifax Mayor Walter Fitzgerald awarded the first Mayor's Award for Cultural Achievement in Literature to Mary Jo Anderson, owner of Frog Hollow Books in Halifax. The citation from the Mayor commended Anderson for her "unstinting contribution to the promotion of literature."

For further information, contact: Jane Buss or Joanne Merriam, WFNS at (902) 423-8116, or visit our website: http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/WFNS.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS
Nova Scotia's Summer Reading Programme Update

The Summer Reading Programme 2000, Sail away with Books/Cap sur La Lecture, will have its official "Kick Off" the week of June 26. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library will join forces with the Halifax Regional Library to host a media event aboard one of the Tall Ships in port, possibly the Concordia, to promote the start of the SRP. Arrangements are also being made on a regional basis through the Tall Ships 2000 Auxiliary Ports Committee, for visits by participants in the SRP to various tall ships, at the different ports of call around the province.

All the Regional Library orders for the Summer Reading Programme promotional material have been filled. The t-shirts and sweatshirts this year are a royal blue. The items appear to be so popular that a second order is now being considered, with a cut off date of June 16. This year the promotional material includes t-shirts, sweatshirts, mousepads, buttons, posters, pencils, bookmarks, fridge magnets and stickers.

HOT TIPS & UPDATES
50 Plus Expo

For the fourth consecutive year, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library will staff a booth representing the Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries at this year's revamped Seniors' Expo, now known as the 50 Plus Expo. The theme of this year's show is "Leisure, Lifestyle and Living" and is geared especially "to entertain, educate and inform those of the Baby Boomer era and beyond." The Expo takes place July 14 - July 15 at the World Trade and Convention centre, from 9-6 each day.

Over the past number of years, the Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries' booth has attracted approximately

600-700 visits over the two day show. This event gives libraries throughout Nova Scotia the opportunity to promote their various services and in particular the services of special interest to those over 50. We are looking for volunteers, in particular volunteers from the regional libraries, to help staff this booth. This is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the public library to the largest growing segment of our population, those 50 and over.

If you are interested in volunteering a couple of hours of your time on either day, please contact Arlene Watts by telephone at (902) 424-4547; by fax at (902) 424-0633; or by e-mail at awatts@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

The Word on the Street

The Board of Directors of The Word on the Street Halifax recently appointed Heather Gibson as the new Executive Director. Heather has worked with a number of not-for-profit organizations including the Khyber Centre for the Arts, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia, and the Calgary Boys' Choir. Heather has over 5 years of event management experience. For more information on Word on the Street, contact Heather at (902) 423-7399.

IPAC/NovaKnowledge Spring Luncheon Series

At the Institute of Public Administrators' (IPAC) Luncheon session on April 12, Dr. Tom Traves outlined the challenges facing universities in today's knowledge economy. He stressed the need for increased funding required to buy up-to-date equipment, fund research, and finance deferred maintenance projects. Mr. Traves responded to many questions including the feasibility of offering courses over the Internet, accountability for funding allocation, and effects of an aging professorate on universities in general.

At the NovaKnowledge Luncheon session on April 11, John Risley gave a brief overview of e-commerce and how he envisions the impact on his business. Both of these areas are ones that have been previously brought forward to the attention of the regional public libraries as potential developments for the future.

The 2000 Knowledge Economy Report Card was issued May 31. The Report Card examines Nova Scotia's culture of innovation and looks at why innovation is critical to our standard of living and how life long learning drives innovation. For more information, visit the website at **http://novaknowledge.ns.ca/home.html**.

Web Awareness Survey

"Canadian parents say they would like to see a collaborative approach to managing the Internet, according to the results of a groundbreaking national survey on Internet use in Canadian families." Details of the survey, conducted by Environics Research Group in March 2000 for the Media Awareness Network, can be found on the Network's web site: **www.media-awareness.ca/eng/webaware/netsurvey2000/index.htm**. Environics Research Group polled 108 randomly selected Canadian families who owned a home computer and had children between six and 16. Over 70 per cent said their children used the Internet and overall, Canadian parents are optimistic about the Internet, and know that they need to help their children make wise choices when selecting web sites.

Public libraries across the country are working with the Media Awareness Network in the implementation of their Web Awareness program. Jan d'Arcy, co-director of the Network, visited Nova Scotia earlier this year to speak to librarians and educators about the program. For further information, please contact Michael Colborne at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, 424-4852, colbormb@gov.ns.ca.

Association of Records Managers & Archivists Seminar

The Halifax Chapter of ARMA (Association of Records Managers & Archivists) held their Annual Spring

Seminar on May 26, 2000 at the Holiday Inn, Halifax. Dale MacMillan (Nova Scotia Provincial Library) reported back that vendor displays, the guest speakers and exciting door prizes made for a well-rounded seminar. Heather MacMillan, Records Manager, NS Department of the Environment presented *Determining your records management needs & identifying functional requirements*. She also presented a second session on *How to produce a Request for Proposal/RFP*. Julia Landry, Conservator, Leaf by Leaf Book & Paper Conservation Services presented the session, *Conservation of Records*. The *Evolution of Professional Records and Information Management Information Training* session was presented jointly with representatives from the School of Library & Information Studies, Dalhousie University, and the Department of Information Technology, Mount Saint Vincent University. A lively afternoon session, *Lifestyles Break* by Dana Marcon, Life Styles Program Coordinator, had seminar attendees roaring with laugher. Her point - laughter is a great stress reliever.

Heritage Conference 2000, Community and Cooperation

On May 25, Shirley MacLeod (Nova Scotia Provincial Library) and Sarah Hainsworth (Learning Resources and Technology) attended *Heritage Conference 2000, Community and Cooperation*, the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage/Council of Nova Scotia Archives annual conference. This session was held at Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management or NSARM (formerly Provincial Archives of Nova Scotia), and included a tour of the archives themselves. Lots of interesting nooks and crannies and vaults stuffed full of treasures! The second part of the afternoon was an information session about ARCHWAY, the new Internet site that makes descriptions of archival collections from institutions across Nova Scotia available to virtual visitors. Archway will become a component of the Canadian Archival Information Network (CAIN) which is a national initiative that aims to provide Canadians with Internet access to the country's archival holdings. For a preview of Archway, go to **http://fox.nstn.ca/~cnsa**.

Reference Services on the Nova Scotia Provincial Library page

Web sites which were featured in previous "Linked" columns are now arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at **http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html**. There is descriptive information about the sites which have been selected for their useful reference information. The site will be updated on a regular basis.

BLNS-L Listserv

This is just a reminder for those who would like to know on a regular basis, what the Nova Scotia Provincial Library is adding to its professional collection. There is a listserv called BLNS-L, which brings its subscribers up-to-date on what is being acquired in the way of books, videos and journal titles for the professional collection, on a bi-monthly basis.

TO SUBSCRIBE TO BLNS-L:
Send a message to: listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca

No subject is required and in the text of the message type "subscribe BLNS-L your name"

TO LEAVE BLNS-L:
Send a message to: listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca. In the text of the message, type "unsubscribe BLNS-L"

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

This article continues our new series which will introduce some of the people who work or have worked in the Nova Scotia regional public library system over the years. If you would like to see someone in profile (who works or has worked in any capacity in the regional public library system), please give us your suggestions! Contact Gillian Webster at webstegs@gov.ns.ca or phone: 902-424-2478.

Many of you will remember Sue Hunter from her days as a member of the User Services Section at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. Before moving to Arizona, Sue married Mark Bartlett, another librarian. The move to Tempe, Arizona has proved to be a fruitful one for them.

For those who don't know, Tempe is a western suburb of Phoenix, the so-called "Valley of the Sun" (it's blue-sky sunny about 350 days a year!) In August 1999 Sue started a position as Reference Librarian/English Literature, Creative Writing & Linguistics Bibliographer at Arizona State University's (ASU) Hayden Library. After six years as Head of Technical Services at DalTech Library, Dalhousie University, Mark left DalTech to move to southwest USA with Sue and look for work in the greater Phoenix area. After some enjoyable leisure time (spent mostly inside air-conditioned coffee shops to escape the 40 degree Celsius weather!) Mark landed a new job as Head of Technical Services at the Ross-Blakely Law Library at ASU's College of Law.

Sue and Mark love the warm and sunny winter weather and spent much of their free time hiking in the desert and local mountain ranges keeping a sharp eye out for dangerous critters such as rattlesnakes, scorpions, and gila monsters! They're both enjoying their new positions and life in the States. They do miss their family, friends and colleagues in Nova Scotia and hope to make it back for a visit in the summer of 2001. You can reach them online at sue.hunter@asu.edu and mark.bartlett@asu.edu

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Did You Know

Here are some more reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries which were answered from resources found on the Internet.

Q. Would like information about the collectible chalkware called "Legends" which is made in England and is similar to the "Bossons" figurines.

A. At the Antiques World site which is a British directory of information on antiques and collectables at **http://www.antiquesworld.co.uk** go to the Collectors Clubs section where the list of clubs includes the Legend Lane Collector's Club at **http://www.antiquesworld.co.uk/Clubs/Legend-Lane.html** listed.

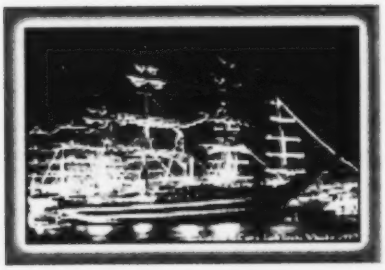
Q. Looking for a newspaper called the Canadian Jewish News which is published weekly in Halifax, Toronto and Montreal.

A. At the web site of The Ultimate Collection of News Links at **http://pppp.net/links/news** click on "North America" and then on "Canada & USA - Nationwide & Online Only" since the publication in question is national in scope. Then scroll down to the list of subject categories to

"Religion - Jewish". This section has a link to the web site of the Canadian Jewish News at **http://www.cjnews.com**. As well as the most recent issue, the fulltext of past issues from January, 1998 can be viewed here.

Previous "Reference on the Net" columns can be found in a file on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at **http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html**.

LINKed



There is a large amount of travel related information on the Internet and only so much space in this column to write about it so as a way of focusing on some of the more useful information the sites of some well-known travel guide book series are featured here. These sites are useful because they have a lot of basic and free information for planning a vacation such as best places to stay and eat and what to see and do for popular and not so popular tourist destinations worldwide.

At the Fielding Travel Guides site at **http://www.fieldingtravel.com** look for the Cruisefinder database where there are reviews and ratings of a large number of cruise ships.

Fodors.com at **http://www.fodors.com** is an extremely useful site for planning travel to destinations worldwide. With the "Create Your Own Miniguide" feature there are a series of checklists where you can pick the kind of information you want about a city in regard to where to stay, eating out and other essential information. In the *Planning Center* you can select a popular destination by country, state, region or city or you can select from a number of general travel topics. Each destination or travel topic has very useful information and links to other relevant web sites. The site also has a Hotel Index and a Restaurant Index which can be

searched by city. In the Living Language link you can learn useful phrases for getting by in French, German, Italian or Spanish. There is also a guide to some of the most popular National Parks in North America.

Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel Online at **http://www.frommers.com** is packed with information for the traveller. The site features "Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel Newsletter," a daily with the latest in travel information and a searchable archive of past newsletters. There is also essential information on a large number of cities worldwide such as accommodations, dining and attractions.

The Insiders Guide site at **http://www.insiders.com** is the online version of these guides which covers the regions and cities of the United States. There is lots of information for planning a trip to the U.S.

At the Lonely Planet Online **http://www.lonelyplanet.com.au** the Destinations section has general travel information for countries and links to sites with more information. "Scoop" is the travel news section. You can search the archives of Scoop for past articles on a particular country. The site has a link to Health information for the traveller.

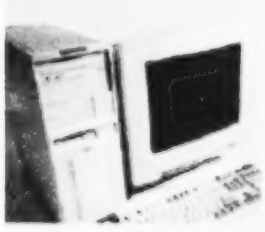
Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door at **http://www.ricksteves.com** provides information on visiting Europe for the no-frills traveller. The Country-by-Country Information section has an archive of articles and excerpts from Rick Steves' Travel Guidebooks on each country. The Travel Tips and Favorite Websites section has web links to sites with lots of useful information on such things as accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, and health and safety.

Rough Guides at **http://travel.roughguides.com/index.htm** is the online equivalent of the print series by the same name. The site has basic information from the contents of the guide books. To access this, click on "Explore More than 14,000 Destinations." Here you will find Countries and Featured Cities pull down menus. The page for each of these destinations has a Contents pull down menu where you can make further selections from topics such as Accommodation, Eating and Entertainment.

Web sites which were featured in previous "Linked" columns are now arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at **http://www.library.ns.ca/provlib/brochure/refser.html**. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca.

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two books which should be of particular interest to readers are being featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send requests via email to Dale MacMillan at **inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca**.



Harris, Lesley Ellen. **Digital property: currency of the 21st century**. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, c1998. Call #: PROF 346 .048 Har
The essential theme of this book is that now is the time to comprehend the economy of the twenty-first century and be prepared for it. Understand the currency of the next century and you'll be positioned to gain from it. The author calls *digital property* the currency of the 21st century. She defines digital property essentially as the content on your computer and on the Internet. She doesn't restrict her definition just to something that exists in digital form but says that even a photograph or a list of friends or customers can also be digital property, as it can be converted into digital form. This book explains the nature, value, marketing and the protection of intellectual property in the new digital age.

Megill, Kenneth A. **The corporate memory: information management in the electronic age**. London :

Bowker Saur, c1997. Call #: PROF 658 .4 Meg
The author of this book defines "corporate memory" as the documents and other information kept by an organization for later reuse. The book deals with the management of institutional memory, covering such areas as the evaluation, selection and organization of information. It attempts to provide a practical perspective on how such information can and should be handled in the electronic age.

Credits go to:

Mark Bartlett, Head of Technical Services, Ross-Blakely Law Library at Arizona State University's College of Law.
Cathy Newton, Youth Services Clerk, Youth Department Truro Branch, Colchester-East Hants Regional Library.
Heidi Julien, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University.